



# Press Release

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## Record-Breaking Year for Three Louisiana Crops

The 2010 crop year has been a spectacular year for Louisiana field crops. “With harvest season coming to an end for most crops, farmers are reporting better yields than expected. Our November yield estimates for Louisiana are at or above record-levels for rice, sorghum and soybeans,” said Nathan Crisp, Director of the Louisiana Field Office of the USDA’s National Agricultural Statistics Service. “Good weather expedited harvesting which resulted in most crops being harvested at a record pace,” Crisp added.

**Soybean** production is expected to total 44.0 million bushels in Louisiana, unchanged from the October estimate but up 20 percent from 2009. Soybean acreage for harvest is forecast at 1,000,000 acres, up 60,000 acres from 2009. Yield is forecast at 44 bushels per acre, unchanged from the previous month but up five bushels from last year. If realized, this will break the existing record of 43 bushels per acre set in 2007. U.S. **soybean** production is forecast at a record high 3.4 billion bushels, down one percent from the October forecast but slightly above last year.

Louisiana **rice** production is forecast at 34.1 million cwt, unchanged from the previous month but up 17 percent from 2009. Rice acreage for harvest is forecast at 525,000 acres, up 61,000 acres from the 2009 crop. Yield per acre is forecast at 6,500 pounds, unchanged from the previous month but up 200 pounds from last year. If realized, will be the highest yield on record, surpassing the 6,300 pounds per acre in 2009. U.S. **rice** production is forecast at 241.6 million cwt, down slightly from the October forecast but up ten percent from last year.

**Sorghum** production is estimated at 8.0 million bushels in the state, unchanged from the October estimate but up 50 percent from 2009. Sorghum harvested acreage is forecast at 80,000 acres, up 15,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 100 bushels per acre, unchanged from last month but up 18 bushels from a year ago. If realized, this would break the existing record of 97 bushels per acre set in 2005. U.S. production of **sorghum** is forecast at 337.6 million bushels, up fractionally from last month but 12 percent below last year.

Louisiana’s **cotton** production is expected to total 440,000 bales, unchanged from the October estimate but up 26 percent from last year. Acreage of cotton expected for harvest is forecast at 250,000 acres, up 25,000 acres from a year ago. The expected yield per acre, at 845 pounds, is unchanged from the October forecast but up 100 pounds from 2009. **Upland cotton** production for the U.S. is forecast at 17.9 million bales, down two percent from last month but 52 percent above 2009.

Louisiana’s **corn** production is forecast at 75.0 million bushels, unchanged from the previous month’s estimate but down seven percent from last year. An estimated 500,000 acres will be harvested for grain, down 110,000 acres from last year. Yield per acre, at 150 bushels, is unchanged from last month but up 18 bushels from last year’s yield. U.S. **corn** production is forecast at 12.5 billion bushels, down one percent from last month and down four percent from last year’s record production.

The Louisiana **sugarcane** crop is estimated at 12.0 million net tons, down six percent from the previous month and down 12 percent from last year. Harvested acreage for sugar and seed is forecast at 415,000 acres, down 10,000 acres from last year. Yield is forecast at 29 net tons per acre, down two net tons from the October estimate and down 3.2 net tons from last year. U.S. production of **sugarcane** for sugar and seed in 2010 is forecast at 29.4 million net tons, down three percent from the October forecast and last year.